

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 9-11, 14, 20, 22-23 and 27.

Please add new claim 34.

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for processing a voice call establishment request from a calling terminal to a called terminal, the method comprising:~~

detecting ~~the~~ a call establishment request;

in response to said detecting, alerting ~~the~~ a called terminal;

in response to said alerting, setting up a two-way connection between ~~the~~ a calling terminal and the called terminal;

determining that a two-way voice call between the calling terminal and the called terminal is not allowed;

receiving silent messages via the called terminal and/or the calling terminal; and

conveying information based on said silent messages to the calling terminal and/or the called terminal, respectively.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said determining is based on detecting a predetermined input via a user interface of the called terminal after said alerting.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said determining is based on detecting a predetermined profile associated with the called terminal, the profile being set prior to said alerting.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the two-way connection is or comprises a chat connection.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said conveying comprises converting said silent messages to speech.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said converting comprises text-to-speech synthesis.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said converting comprises receiving an indication of one of a plurality of predetermined voice messages.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein said plurality of predetermined voice messages is dimensioned such that any predetermined voice message is selectable without moving fingers on the user interface.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the determining step is carried out by a network element.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein the converting step is carried out by a network element.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~for processing a voice call establishment request from a calling terminal to a called terminal~~, the apparatus comprising:

~~means for detecting~~ a detecting unit configured to detect the a call establishment request;

an alerting unit configured to alert a called terminal in response to said call establishment request;

~~means for~~ a setting up unit configured to set-up, in response to said alerting, a two-way connection between ~~the a~~ calling terminal and the called terminal;

~~means for a~~ determining unit configured to determine that a two-way voice call between the calling terminal and the called terminal is not allowed;

~~means for a~~ receiving unit configured to receive silent messages via the called terminal; and

~~means for a~~ conveying unit configured to convey information based on said silent messages to the calling terminal.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the apparatus is located in a network element.

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the apparatus is located in the called terminal.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~for processing a voice call establishment request from a calling terminal to a called terminal, the apparatus being configured to~~
detect ~~the~~ a call establishment request;

in response to said detection, set up a two-way connection between ~~the~~ a calling terminal and ~~the~~ a called terminal;

determine that a two-way voice call between the calling terminal and the called terminal is not allowed;

receive silent messages via the called terminal; and

convey information based on said silent messages to the calling terminal.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the apparatus is located in a network element.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the apparatus is located in the called terminal.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising:

a mode converter configured to change a call mode from a voice call to a non-voice call.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the apparatus is further configured to convert chat responses to speech.

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the apparatus is further configured to store pre-recorded voice responses.

20. (Currently Amended) A user interface in a called terminal and/or a calling terminal, wherein the user interface is configured to

select a desired call mode; ~~and~~

in response to said selection, setting up a two-way connection between the calling terminal and the called terminal; and

if a two-way voice call between the called terminal and the calling terminal is not allowed, receive silent messages from the calling terminal and/or the called terminal.

21. (Previously Presented) A user interface according to claim 20, wherein said silent messages are chat responses.

22. (Currently Amended) A user interface according to claim 20, wherein ~~it~~the user interface is configured to select predetermined voice messages such that any predetermined voice message is selectable by a user without moving fingers on the user interface.

23. (Currently Amended) A communication system,~~the system being~~ configured to

detect a voice call establishment request from a calling terminal to a called terminal;

in response to said detecting, alert the called terminal;

in response to said alert, set up a two-way connection between the calling terminal and the called terminal;

determine that a two-way voice call between the calling terminal and the called terminal is not allowed; and

receive silent messages via said called terminal and/or calling terminal and convey information based on said silent messages to the calling terminal and/or the called terminal, respectively.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
presenting an audio alert in the called terminal.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
presenting a visual alert in the called terminal.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, further comprising:
executing a plurality of options in said predetermined profile according to rules in said predetermined profile.

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said determination by said ~~means for determining~~ unit is based on detecting a predetermined profile associated with the called terminal, the profile being set prior to said alerting.

28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said determination by said apparatus is based on detecting a predetermined profile associated with the called terminal, the profile being set prior to said alerting.

29. (Previously Presented) A user interface according to claim 20, wherein when determining that the two-way voice call between the called terminal and the calling terminal is not allowed, said determination is based on detecting a predetermined profile associated with the called terminal, the profile being set prior to said alerting.

30. (Previously Presented) A communication system according to claim 23, wherein said determination by said system is based on detecting a predetermined profile associated with the called terminal, the profile being set prior to said alerting.

31. (Previously Presented) A communication system according to claim 23, wherein the system is further configured to change a call mode from a voice call to a non-voice call.

32. (Previously Presented) A communication system according to claim 23, wherein the system is further configured to convert chat responses to speech.

33. (Previously Presented) A communication system according to claim 23, wherein the system is further configured to store pre-recorded voice responses.

34. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

- means for detecting a call establishment request;
- means for alerting a called terminal in response to said call establishment request;
- means for setting up, in response to said alerting, a two-way connection between a calling terminal and the called terminal;
- means for determining that a two-way voice call between the calling terminal and the called terminal is not allowed;
- means for receiving silent messages via the called terminal; and
- means for conveying information based on said silent messages to the calling terminal.